National Highways Project

†2340. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far with respect to National Highways Project started by the Prime Minister;

(b) the number of employment opportunities generated and the industries for which demand has increased;

(c) whether it is a fact that the investment by the private parties is much higher in the construction of roads than expected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The progress achieved on the components of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North South and East-West Corridors of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) so far is as under:

(i) Golden Quadrilateral Project (GQ)

Total Length	:	5846 km
Already 4-laned	:	1159 km
Under Implementation	:	4536 km
Balance for award of contracts	:	136 km

(ii) North-South & East-West Corridor Project

Total Length (Approx.)	:	7300 km
Already 4-laned	:	817 km
Under Implementation	:	617 km
Balance for award of contracts	:	5812 km

(b) NHDP is expected to generate 40 crore man-days of employment. The annual average requirement of cement and steel is 30 to 40 lakhs metric tonnes and 2.5 to 3 lakhs metric tonnes, respectively. Cement and steel industries have registered growth rates of 9.3% and 7.3% respectively, during the period April-October, 2002.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There are 22 projects of total cost of Rs. 7232 crores, in aggregate length of 1152 kms which are under implementation on Build Operate Transfer (BOT), Annuity and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) basis.

Road accidents in Chandigarh

†2341. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of persons dying of head injuries in road accidents in Chandigarh is much more than that of Metro Cities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of persons died of head injuries in road accidents in Chandigarh during the last three years; and

(d) the effective steps proposed to be taken by Government to check the road accidents in the said area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) This Ministry does not compile the road accident data based on various type of injuries, including head injury. However, as per information available the number of persons dying in road accidents in Chandigarh is much less than that in four metros.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The data is not maintained by this Ministry.

(d) The Government is taking various measures to inculcate safe driving practices in the country so as to reduce road accidents. Some of these are:

(1) Provision of refresher training to drivers of heavy motor vehicles.

(2) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.